

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A suspension system is provided which includes an arm having a zero  
5 clearance axle connection. In a described embodiment, a method is provided for  
manufacturing the suspension system, which method includes the steps of  
welding an axle connector to an axle, without first pressing the axle connector  
onto an end of the axle, and without using a clamp to hold the axle connector in  
contact with the axle, and welding the axle connector to a pivot arm.